

## Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

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IO-11 /078 W

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O R 241252Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1076

MADRID PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, AO

SUBJECT: MPLA FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. SUMMARY - MPLA FOREIGN MINISTER DOS SANTOS DEPARTS MOSCOW EARLIER THAN PLANNED BECAUSE OF "SCHEDULING PROBLEMS." MOSCOW STRESSED THE PARTY-TO-PARTY LINKS THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, AN APPROACH WHICH COULD UNDERScore THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE IDEOLOGICAL FACTOR IN SOVIET-ANGOLAN POLICY. END SUMMARY

2. PRAVDA (JANUARY 24) REPORTS THAT MPLA "FOREIGN MINISTER" DOS SANTOS MET WITH POLITBURO CANDIDATE MEMBER PONOMAREV, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ARKHIPOV, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IL'ICHEV, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT  
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UL'YANOVSKIY. ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, DOS SANTOS DISCUSSED THE SUCCESSE

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OF THE "PATRIOTIC FORCES" OF ANGOLA (UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MPLA) IN THE STRENGTHENING OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA. DOS SANTOS ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DEEP THANKS TO THE CPSU AND THE SOVIET PEOPLE FOR THE HELP WHICH THEY HAVE EXTENDED. PRAVDA ADDS THAT THE SOVIET SIDE INFORMED THE MPLA DELEGATION ABOUT CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE UPCOMING 25TH PARTY CONGRESS, ABOUT SOVIET EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN PEACE AND DETENTE, AND THE SOLIDARITY OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE WITH THE ONGOING STRUGGLE OF THE PRA AGAINST THE AGGRESSION OF IMPERIALIST AND RACIST FORCES. PRAVDA CONCLUDES THAT THE TWO SIDES EMPHASIZED THEIR READINESS TO STRENGTHEN AND BROADEN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CPSU AND THE MPLA, AS WELL AS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND THAT DOS SANTOS DELIVERED A MESSAGE FROM NETO TO BREZHNEV. IN A BRIEF ACCOMPANYING STORY, PRAVDA ANNOUNCES THAT DOS SANTOS ALSO DELIVERED A MESSAGE FROM NETO TO KOSYGIN, AND THAT THE DELEGATION DEPARTED MOSCOW THE EVENING OF JANUARY 23.

3. AFP CORRESPONDENT HERE FROM SOVIET SOURCES FLESHED OUT THE PRAVDA ACCOUNTS WITH THE INFORMATION THAT DOS SANTOS' VISIT WAS A RESULT OF AN MPLA REQUEST, AND THAT THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL CONFIRMED TO AFP THAT THE VISIT WAS SUPPOSED TO LAST THROUGH JANUARY 25. AFP ADDED THAT IN AN AIRPORT STATEMENT DOS SANTOS EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE "TOTAL SUPPORT" PROVIDED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND THE CPSU TO THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE "IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION." DOS SANTOS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AT BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEVELS "WILL BE STRENGTHENED," AND THAT DURING THE TALKS DOS SANTOS HAD INFORMED MOSCOW OF GENERAL ANGOLAN PROBLEMS SUCH AS ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS OF THE MILITARY SITUATION. AFP ADDED THAT THE MFA CLAIMED THAT DOS SANTOS HAD DEPARTED MOSCOW EARLIER THAN EXPECTED BECAUSE OF "SCHEDULING PROBLEMS" CONCERNING FLIGHTS TO BRAZZAVILLE.

4. COMMENT - LOCAL OBSERVERS ARE SPECULATING THAT DOS SANTOS' PREMATURE DEPARTURE MIGHT REFLECT DISCORD BETWEEN PRA AND MOSCOW AND MIGHT HAVE RESULTED FROM SOVIET PRESSURE ON MPLA TO ACQUIESCE IN POLITICAL SOLUTION. WE, HOWEVER, AS YET SEE NO ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE LOCALLY TO SUPPORT THIS. IN ANY CASE, THE ATMOSPHERICS SURROUNDING DOS SANTOS' VISIT INDICATE THAT MOSCOW  
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CONSIDERED THE OCCASION TO BE A PARTY-TO-PARTY VISIT RATHER THAN ONE PRIMARILY ON THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL, WHICH FURTHER UNDERSCORES IDEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE TO MOSCOW OF ITS EFFORTS IN ANGOLA.  
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## Message Attributes

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